

PRIDE OF RICHMOND.

THE OLD DOMINION IRON AND NAIL WORKS COMPANY.

A GRAVE OLD INSTITUTION.

Something of its Romantic Past and Very Practical Present—The Great Plant at Belle Isle Described in Detail—700 Men Employed.

There have been inaugurated in our city during the past twelve months so many new enterprises which have enjoyed the applause of the people that it is almost impossible to do justice to all of them. One of the most interesting and important of these is the Old Dominion Iron and Nail Works Company, which have for many years given employment to hundreds and thousands of men, and have stood the test of hard times as well as of prosperity.

From among these time-honored institutions, which have stood the test of hard times as well as of prosperity, the Old Dominion Iron and Nail Works Company is one of the most prominent. It is the oldest of its kind in the South, and its history is a record of the growth and development of the iron and nail industry in this country.

The works of the company were established on Belle Isle, which has for thirty years been a part of Richmond, in the year 1851. From a small beginning the enterprise grew continuously, until today it is one of the largest and most important of its kind in the South. In its past, as now, it has been the mainstay of hundreds of families who year after year have derived their sustenance from the vast sums it has expended in wages and in improvements. What citizen is there, be he old or young, who does not associate with Richmond the operations of the Old Dominion Iron and Nail Works Company?

Day after day it has been busy with the smoke from its furnaces, and night after night it has reddened our heavens with the glare of its fires.

THE PUDDLE-MILL.

The great puddle-mill at the Belle Isle plant can be readily seen from Hollywood, Gamble's Hill, and other adjacent points of the city. It is a massive structure, built of brick and iron, and is one of the most important of the works. It is used for puddling the iron, which is a process of refining the metal by heating it in a furnace and stirring it with a long pole. The puddle-mill is a large building, and it is one of the most important of the works.

THE HORSESHOE FACTORY.

The visitor goes in the horseshoe factory long bars of red-hot iron, bent and pressed into horseshoes of all sizes and shapes that the trade requires. These shoes are all over this country and into foreign lands.

At the Old Dominion Iron and Nail Works are also made tin roofing plates, the materials for which come from various parts of the globe. From the country and Wales, from the East and from Malacca, and palm oil from Syria. Many of the best buildings in the South are covered with plates manufactured at the splendid plant of this great enterprise.

THE BOLT DEPARTMENT.

The most recent addition to these works is the bolt department. Here rods of iron are put into heavy machines, which cut them into bolts of all sizes and shapes. These bolts are sold in car-load lots for car and bridge building principally, but used for many other purposes as well.

The company's works cover a large space, having about twelve acres under cultivation. It has ample storehouses, office buildings, and yards. The works are connected by a private railroad, as the great enterprise has its own locomotives and cars for this service. So close are its operations that this little line is an absolute necessity.

THE FURNACE DEPARTMENT.

It is a pleasure to go through these works and to breathe the air of the furnace, which pervades the great plant. Everywhere in the works, the heat of the furnace is felt. The workers are all dressed in heavy clothing, and they are all wearing masks to protect their faces from the heat and the smoke.

THE FURNACE DEPARTMENT.

From the foregoing sketch of the Old Dominion Iron and Nail Works, it will be seen that the famous institution, though ripe in years, is still abreast of the times. Indeed, it has, figuratively speaking, done so well in the new century that it has been sought by Ponce de Leon, for the present plant of the company has been equipped with the best and most modern of machinery. To-day it is thoroughly up-to-date, and must expand still more before long. Even as it has done in the past twelve months.

THE IMPLEMENT COMPANY.

A Concern Well Known Among Southern Farmers.

The Implement Company, a firm widely known throughout the South, on account of its low prices, reliability, and promptness, does an immense business, both retail and wholesale, in agricultural implements, vehicles, farm machinery, etc. The concern also does some manufacturing, and is famous for its churns, butter churns, corn-shellers, and for its well-known corn-and-cob-crushers. The latter have gained widespread popularity, as they are great money-saving inventions, and absolutely necessary to the well-to-do farmer. Wood's new patent churn, of which the company makes a specialty, has proved a great "seller," and is everywhere attracting attention.

The Implement Company, which, by the way, has at its head Mr. T. W. Wood, senior member of the famous firm of T. W. Wood & Sons, seedsmen, has more than doubled its business within the last three years, and now travels many salesmen in Virginia, North and South Carolina, and parts of Georgia. It is not surprising that it has achieved such remarkable success when it is remembered that the house handles almost everything a farmer could possibly need. Note the fol-

YEAK IN THE STATE.

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In the Department of Carriage and Wagon Materials, their stock is the largest in the city, consisting of a large assortment of Surber & Warner Patent Wheels, Iron and Steel Axles, Springs of the different patterns and makes, Buggy Tires, Harness, Hubs, Spokes, etc.

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So the stories of horrible little girls of school-girls who "set examples" at the age of 10, were common, and at 8 a girl was supposed to relieve her exhausted mother of household work, and to brighten her father's declining years until she should be thought worthy to be the wife of some worthy young man, with whom she was to sink into premature old age. Nowadays all that is changed, and the period of youthfulness has been largely extended. At 10 a girl is still a child, and at 20 she is still a girl. Even at 30 she is not upon the shelf, while the modern mother, so far from being decrepit, when her daughters are grown up, generally looks upon them as a reason for renewing her own youthfulness. Greater mental activity has given freshness and interest to life, and these girls have been taught to use their brains, the old-fashioned conception of the necessary failure of power after 35 has become absurd.

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THE RICHMOND DISPATCH-SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1900.

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